

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

January 2011 – Week 2

Air Date: January 9 – January 15 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: MURDER IN THE COURT

JANUARY 1871 AND IT'S CHAOS IN THE COURTROOM.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JANUARY 11, 1871. HUNTSVILLE. TEXAS SUFFERS UNDER POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION. WHEN RADICAL GOVERNOR E.J. DAVIS' HATED STATE POLICE ARREST FOUR MEN FOR THE MURDER OF A FORMER SLAVE, TENSIONS RUN HIGH.

TODAY AT THE MENS TRIAL, THE COURTROOM IS PACKED WITH THEIR SUPPORTERS.

THE JUDGE DELIVERS HIS VERDICT – AND CHAOS ERUPTS. THE PRISONERS PULL WEAPONS AND START SHOOTING. POLICE FIRE BACK AND THE COURTROOM IS ABLAZE. THE FIGHT SPILLS INTO THE STREET. TWO OF THE MEN ESCAPE, WHILE A THIRD IS CAUGHT.

A MONTH LATER, DAVIS IMPOSES MARTIAL LAW. THE MILITARY CONVICTS SEVEN MEN FOR THE VIOLENCE, BUT TO MANY, DAVIS AND HIS POLICE ARE THE OUTLAWS.

THE WALKER COUNTY REBELLION BEGAN 140 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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HANDBOOK OF TEXAS – WALKER COUNTY REBELLION

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/WW/jcwfv.html>

HANDBOOK OF TEXAS – L.H. MCNELLY

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/MM/fmcag.html>

[The Texas Rangers: A Century of Frontier Defense](#), Walter P. Webb, UT Press, p. 224

Galveston News, Wednesday, February 22, 1871, accessed online at newspaperarchive.com

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